

MEPs FIGHT AMR

2019-2024 strategic work programme of the MEP Interest Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

The MEP Interest Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is the only AMR-dedicated group in the European Parliament. Determined to tackle AMR, MEPs from across the political spectrum are working together to ensure Europe is a global leader in the fight against this urgent health threat. Its members are committed to:

- Ensuring that AMR is high on the EU policy agenda and that the European Parliament plays a key role in boosting AMR action
- Stressing the need for urgent action through a multi-sectoral One Health approach, which addresses human, animal and environmental health
- Ensuring that the EU and its Member States deliver on their commitments and implement effective actions at EU, national and regional level.

The members of the Interest Group commit to undertaking activities focused on the following objectives:

RAISE AWARENESS ON AMR

- **Promoting** better public and professional understanding of AMR, its transmission pathways between humans, animals and the environment and how it can be prevented through a One Health approach, by encouraging community-centred awareness campaigns and behavioural change on responsible use and handling of antibiotics;
- **Organising** and participating in AMR awareness-raising campaigns such as the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) in collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC);
- **Working** with national governments to provide access to targeted, continuous education and training on AMR for healthcare and veterinary professionals and aspiring professionals;
- **Supporting** the creation of a European-wide best practice exchange platform for healthcare and veterinary professionals, and encouraging the uptake of best practice examples at national, regional and local level;
- **Understanding** that AMR is a threat to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing AMR is therefore closely linked to improving universal health coverage and health systems strengthening in low and middle-income countries.

SUPPORT THE USE OF TARGET-SETTING AND EVALUATION IN AMR POLICY-MAKING

- **Encouraging** the European Commission to incorporate ambitious and realistic target-setting to combat AMR, along with concrete evaluation criteria to monitor progress and impact of actions, in any future EU One Health Action Plan against AMR (post-2022);

- **Promoting** the introduction of EU headline targets with the aim of reducing unnecessary prescription and use of human and veterinary antimicrobials, and healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) across the EU;
- **Supporting** Member States' efforts in the implementation of AMR One Health National Action Plans (NAPs), which are aligned with the Global Action Plan on AMR and make use of the proposed ECDC/EFSA/EMA harmonised outcome indicators to measure progress in the reduction of antimicrobials use and AMR in humans and animals.

PROMOTE FUNDING FOR AMR-RELATED INVESTMENTS

- **Promoting** the need for a dedicated EU fund or funds earmarked from the current EU budget to support Member States in developing and implementing One Health AMR NAPs;
- **Promoting** efforts to inform national, regional and local authorities of EU financial and technical assistance opportunities and how to mobilise funds and resources, such as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), to complement and strengthen their AMR policies and actions, as well as to help reduce disparities between and within countries in the health burden of HAIs and AMR and actions to tackle AMR;
- **Supporting** increased funding for research and innovation under the Horizon Programme and its instruments across all relevant sectors, including for research and development of new antibiotics, diagnostics, vaccines and alternatives to antibiotics;
- **Supporting** further research on the use of probiotics in reducing infections and in replenishing the gut microbiome following antimicrobial treatment, as well as exploring microbiota-based strategies in the prevention and treatment of multidrug-resistant infections;
- **Strengthening** efforts to increase public investment to fight AMR by publicising evidence making the economic case for sustainable investment, notably the cost-effectiveness and return on investment of implementing stewardship programmes and infection prevention and control practices.

ENABLE AN INCLUSIVE EU AMR ONE HEALTH DIALOGUE

- **Promoting** the involvement of the Interest Group in meetings of the EU AMR One Health Network, hosted by the European Commission;
- **Working** with the civil society-led AMR Stakeholder Network and other public interest and patient organisations to facilitate the establishment of a formal One Health multi-stakeholder platform to tackle AMR;
- **Encouraging** the participation of multi-disciplinary experts in the design and implementation of AMR policies at EU and national level, reflecting a One Health approach to address AMR, ensuring better inter-sectoral and inter-Ministerial coordination;
- **Enhancing** inter-institutional cooperation and dialogue among EU institutions in the fight against AMR as well as strengthening the EU's contribution to the global response to AMR through improved engagement with international partners;
- **Supporting** the European Commission's efforts to establish negotiations on a global agreement on the sustainable use of and access to effective antimicrobials for humans and animals.

ENSURE THAT PREVENTION IS AT THE HEART OF ALL AMR ACTION

- **Supporting** efforts to ensure high standards of infection prevention and control in all sectors and across all Member States, leaving no country behind;
- **Encouraging** Member States and hospitals to invest in infection prevention and control measures, ensuring that healthcare infrastructures are conducive to providing good quality of care to patients;
- **Encouraging** the creation and implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programmes in human health care facilities and in veterinary practice, administered by multidisciplinary teams to prevent the emergence and spread of AMR and improve the efficacy of available antimicrobial treatments;
- **Promoting** prudent use of antimicrobials in humans and animals and tackling inappropriate antibiotic prescribing without limiting access in case of need;
- **Supporting** the development, uptake and use of accessible and affordable rapid diagnostic tests to optimise diagnosis and treatment in both humans and animals, reducing unnecessary antimicrobial use;
- **Strengthening** the development of surveillance systems and data collection on the AMR burden to monitor trends and track progress;
- **Protecting** vulnerable groups such as immunocompromised patients suffering from non-communicable diseases (eg. cancer) or infectious diseases (eg. HIV/AIDS, TB) as well as those undergoing repetitive surgical procedures, who are exposed to greater prophylactic use of antibiotics and prolonged antimicrobial treatments, and thus have a higher risk of developing resistance;
- **Encouraging** the implementation of holistic and improved livestock farming and animal health and welfare standards across the EU, reducing the need for antimicrobial treatments;
- **Promoting** greater immunisation coverage through vaccination in all EU Member States.

ADDRESS THE MARKET FAILURES IN ANTIBIOTIC RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- **Exploring** successful non-market-based mechanisms to address market failures in other fields of biomedical R&D, such as non-profit product development partnerships (PDPs) like the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP) and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi);
- **Supporting** the development of new needs-driven models to finance and stimulate antibiotic R&D, which ensure both responsible use and equitable and affordable access to quality antibiotics, such as delinking price and volume of antibiotic sales from R&D costs;
- **Taking** an end-to-end approach, which targets public investment across the entire chain from global priority setting to early discovery, through the product development phase, to appropriate and affordable patient access.

FIGHT PHARMACEUTICAL POLLUTION

- **Encouraging** EU binding measures to mitigate the impact of pharmaceuticals in the environment, further to the EU Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment and in the framework of the 'zero pollution ambition' as part of the European Green Deal;

- **Supporting** the introduction of continuous monitoring of AMR in the environment in current environmental monitoring frameworks;
- **Addressing** antibiotic manufacturing pollution by calling for greater transparency in antibiotic manufacturing throughout the entire supply chain, holding companies accountable for the environmental release of pharmaceuticals from manufacturing plants and those operated by third parties at any stage of production;
- **Supporting** the setting of environmental quality standards and concentration limits for pharmaceuticals in water and soil, still largely excluded from EU environmental regulations;
- **Encouraging** the research and development of affordable antimicrobials with lower environmental risk (green by design);
- **Addressing** the risk for development of AMR in the Environmental Risk Assessment for all antimicrobial substances within the market authorisation process to bridge the knowledge gap and adopt appropriate mitigation measures.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND MEDICATED FEED REGULATIONS

- **Highlighting** the synergies between the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Farm to Fork Strategy and the EU One Health Action Plan against AMR, supporting livestock farmers and Member States in the fight against AMR and creating the right conditions to minimise the use of antimicrobials and other pharmaceutical substances to ensure their use does not compensate for poor animal husbandry practices;
- **Supporting** measures to protect European consumers from the exposure and spread of AMR through third-country imports of products of animal origin by ensuring that third country operators have to abide by EU standards concerning both antibiotic use for growth promotion in livestock and antibiotic use for routine prevention in livestock;
- **Supporting** measures to improve data collection and reporting on the sales and use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals;
- **Encouraging** the uptake of best practice examples from veterinary practice, whereby stringent surveillance, prevention measures and regular health visits coupled with increased biosecurity and target-setting, have led to decreasing trends in antimicrobial use and the development of AMR in food-producing animals.

About the MEP Interest Group on Antimicrobial Resistance - MEPs fight AMR

The MEP Interest Group on AMR was officially launched in February 2020. Its secretariat is co-hosted by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe, with the support of the AMR Stakeholder Network, the largest civil society-led network of AMR stakeholders, operating within the European Commission's Health Policy Platform. <https://epha.org/amr-interest-group/> • **Twitter: #MEPvsAMR**

Disclaimer: The objectives and actions outlined in this document have been agreed by the Members of the MEP Interest Group on AMR. However, certain actions and perspectives may not necessarily reflect the views of individual Members of the European Parliament or the views of different political parties.

